

REMARKS

The applicants received copies of 2 forms PTO-1449 on which all but one citation had been initialed by the examiner. The sole citation that had not been initialed refers to a Netherlands publication which was cited in a European search report for a corresponding foreign application. No reason was given for the failure to consider this reference. When the form PTO 1449 was submitted, the search report and a copy of the reference were included. Assuming that the reason that the Netherlands reference was not considered was that the copy of the Netherlands publication was lost in the Patent Office and did not appear in the examiner's file, the applicants are re-submitting the form PTO-1449 that listed the Netherlands publication, a copy of the Netherlands publication itself and a copy of the European search report. The applicants respectfully request the examiner to consider the Netherlands reference and to return a copy of the form PTO form 1449 on which the Netherlands citation has been initialed. If this cannot be done, the applicants request that a reason be provided for the failure to consider this reference.

Claims 1-19, 27 and 28 are pending. Claims 20-26 have been canceled. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 28 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to include a dependency statement. Claim 28 has been amended to include a statement of dependency, such that claim 28 depends on claim 27. Therefore, claim 28 is considered to be definite, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 27, and 28 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by the patent to Tozaki *et al.* The applicants request withdrawal of this rejection for the following reasons.

The patent to Tozaki *et al.* does not show a hose with a corrugated portion as claimed. The patent to Tozaki *et al.* relates to a connector that connects a pipe 110 including a prevention flange 111 to a body 10 via a clip 20. O-rings 14A (sealing members) are fitted on a step portion of a pipe receiving portion 12 with gaskets 14B. The O-rings 14A seal between the inner wall of the pipe receiving portion 12 and the outer surface of the pipe 110.

To fit the O-rings 14A in the pipe receiving portion 12, the gaskets 14B and the step portion, which is formed in the body 10, are required. Further, the prevention flange 111 is required to fix the clip 20 to the pipe 110. The connector of the Tozaki patent is thus relatively complex.

Further, it is troublesome to fit the O-rings 14A and the gaskets 14B on the step portion of the body 10 before connecting the clip 20 to the pipe-receiving portion 12.

Claim 1 is directed to a hose and coupling assembly that connects the hose, which includes a corrugated portion, to a fitting member with a socket. In the claimed assembly, a socket fitting portion engages a groove of the corrugated portion. A sealing portion is located in another groove of the corrugated portion. Thus, the claimed assembly requires no additional parts or special structure to hold the socket and sealing member. Further, the socket can be connected to the fitting member with a simple, one-handed operation. That is, the user need only press the socket toward the fitting member to connect the hose to the fitting member. Therefore, claim 1 is considered to be patentable over the patent to Tozaki *et al.* Claims 2, 8, and 9 are dependent on claim 1 and are considered to be allowable for the same reasons.

Claim 27, like claim 1, recites a hose and coupling assembly including a hose having a corrugated portion. The patent to Tozaki *et al.* fails to disclose a hose having a corrugated portion. Thus, claim 27 cannot be anticipated by the patent to Tozaki *et al.*, and the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection. Claim 28 is dependent on claim 27 and is thus considered to be patentable for the same reasons.

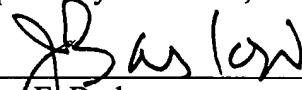
Entry of this amendment is requested, since this amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

The applicants respectfully request rejoinder of claims 3-7 and 10-19. At least claim 1 is generic to the embodiments covered by these claims.

In view of the forgoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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